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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 24, 2006. Claims 1-7 and 14-20 are pending. Claims 8-13 are withdrawn from consideration.

Confirmation of Election

Applicants hereby confirm the election of Group I, claims 1-7 and 14-20 with traverse. Claims 8-13 are withdrawn from consideration.

Objection to Claims 14-20

Claims 14-20 stand objected to because the language does not consistently claim a subcombination. Applicants have amended claim 14 to delete the language, "wherein said first polymer piece and said second polymer piece are welded together to form an angled joint for slidably receiving a first trim piece and a second trim piece at the corners of a wall".

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14, as amended, now has consistent language. Claims 15-20 ultimately depend from newly amended 14 and contain the limitations thereof. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claims 14-20 be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ploplis (U.S. 6,354,057).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the language, "...and wherein said first and second pieces include flanges". As further claimed (claim 1), the flanges are "for slidably receiving a first trim piece and a second trim piece at the corners of a wall." Nowhere does Ploplis teach or suggest an assembly for receiving "trim pieces" as Applicants claim. Further Ploplis does not teach or suggest "flanges for slidably receiving a first trim piece and a second trim piece at the corners of a wall" as Applicants claim (claim 1).

Claims 6 and 7 ultimately depend from claim 1 and contain the limitations thereof. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 14, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rasmussen ('861) in view of Plopis ('057).

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Plopis in view of Enlow et al.

Claims 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rasmussen in view of Plopis and further in view of Enlow.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the language, "...wherein said first and second pieces include flanges for slidably receiving a first trim piece and a second trim piece at the corners of a wall." Neither Rasmussen nor Plopis teach or suggest "flanges for slidably receiving a first trim piece and a second trim piece at the corners of a wall" as Applicants claim.

Further, as indicated above, claim 1 has been amended to include the language, "...and wherein said first and second pieces include flanges". As stated above, nowhere does Plopis teach or suggest this limitation.

It is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be made with regard to the above cited references. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. **Finally, the applied reference(s) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.** The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. Further, the fact that the claimed invention is within the capabilities of one of ordinary skill in the art is not sufficient by itself to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness without

some objective reason to combine the teachings of the references. See MPEP §2142

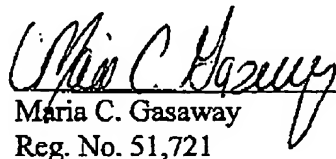
Claims 19 and 20 ultimately depend from newly amended claim 14 and contain the limitations thereof. Claims 2-5 ultimately depend from amended claim 1 and contain the limitations thereof. Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejections of claims 14, 19 and 20, 2-5 and 15-18 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1-7 and 14-20 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of all claims at an early date is solicited. If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

Applicants authorize any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,


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